AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the second full paragraph of page 11 as follows:

The motor 104 which transmits power to the pulley 102 as described above, is connected to a current measurement equipment 94 (a non-limiting example of a detector) which is in turn connected to a central processing unit (hereinafter referred to as a "CPU") 90. At the time the sheet P is cut by the rotary blade 58, the current measurement equipment 94 measures the value of electric current of the motor 104. The CPU 90 (a non-limiting example of a comparator) then compares this value with a reference current value.

Please amend the third full paragraph of page 11 as follows:

The CPU 90 is connected to a display control unit 106 which is in turn connected to a display 108 (a non-limiting example of an output element). When the current value measured exceeds the reference, the CPU 90, via the display control unit 106, causes the display 108 to indicate that the rotary blade 58 should be replaced.

Please amend the second full paragraph of page 13 as follows:

As described above, in the present embodiment, a life span of a blade or cutter can be estimated by measuring an electric current value of a motor for driving the blade or cutter. Further, blade trouble like blade breakage and/or generation of sheet jamming can be anticipated. In place of or in addition to displaying a message that the blade or cutter should be replaced, visual or audible warning (another non-limiting example of an output element) to users may simply be provided.

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Please amend the first full paragraph of page 14 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 7, this structure is provided with two touch sensors 110 and 112

(another non-limiting example of a detector), each of which is disposed in the vicinity of each

end of the fixed blade 54. As soon as the rotary blade 58 starts cutting of the sheet P, the slider

76 is brought out of contact with the touch sensor 110. At this moment, an electric circuit

included in the touch sensor 110 accordingly operates and outputs a signal (i.e., a cutting start

signal) to the CPU 90. Next, as soon as the rotary blade 58 completes cutting of the sheet P, the

slider 76 is brought into contact with the touch sensor 112. Correspondingly, the touch sensor

112 outputs a signal (i.e., a cutting completion signal) to the CPU 90.